

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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OCA 88-1779

6 June 1988

The Honorable David H. Pryor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Services,
Post Office and Civil Service
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 19 April 1988 to Mr. William Donnelly requesting information from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on behalf of a General Accounting Office survey on the U.S. Government's information and personnel security programs.

The focus of your request, as described in your letter, raises very serious security concerns. Individuals who have been granted sensitive security access must be considered targets for hostile services. Protecting these employees is a major challenge for our security officers. Further, having access to the statistical information on the numbers and location of individuals with security access represents a significant insight to the policy priorities of the United States. As you know, this information would be particularly valuable to intelligence professionals from hostile services.

Security related information is very sensitive to the internal operations of the CIA, and these procedures are subject to close and continuing scrutiny by the House and Senate intelligence committees. For these reasons, it would be inappropriate for our officers to comment on the survey.

I am sorry that we cannot be more helpful in this case. A copy of this letter has been sent to Mr. Ford of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and Mr. Brooks, Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations.

Sincerely,



John L. Helgeson
Director of Congressional Affairs

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